



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, October 4, 2018  
Florence Ely Nelson Desert Park  
8950 E. Pinnacle Peak Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85255**

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Jace McKeighan, Vice-Chair Cynthia Wenstrom, Commissioners Bobby Alpert, Steve Dodd, Laurie LaPat-Polasko, and Marsha Lipps

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Tawana Parker

**STAFF:** Bill Murphy, Director of Community Services; Kroy Ekblaw, Preserve Director; Scott Hamilton, Senior Trails Planner; Natural Resources Coordinators Yvonne Massman, Robert Graves; Kelly Hayes, Recreation Leader III; Jeff Nichols, City Treasurer; Joe Padilla, Deputy City Attorney

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair McKeighan called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Members present as noted above.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Erik Filsinger spoke regarding trailhead parking. He urged the City and the Commission to consider alternatives for the parking plans at 104th and Bell and Ringtail. He suggested that the parking lot for 104th and Bell be moved north a short distance, gated and combined with installation of the helipad. He suggested that parking for the Ringtail location be part of a trailhead off of Cactus Road, west into the Preserve. He noted that users of those trails like the small, more intimate experience that cannot be found at the larger trailheads.

Laurie Jones spoke regarding trailhead parking at 104th and Bell. She agreed with the recommendations of Mr. Filsinger and stressed the importance of convenient parking and small access points to users who are visiting the Preserve with children.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair McKeighan requested to add a statement at the end of the second paragraph under Item 7 stating: The Commissioners asked a number of questions of staff and Mr. Toth about the event.

VICE-CHAIR WENSTROM MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 6, 2018 MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED.

COMMISSIONER ALPERT SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR MCKEIGHAN, VICE-CHAIR WENSTROM, COMMISSIONERS ALPERT, DODD, LAPAT- POLASKO, AND LIPPS VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

#### **5. MCDOWELL SONORAN CONSERVANCY UPDATE**

Justin Owen thanked Chair McKeighan and Mr. Ekblaw for giving a presentation during the Steward season kickoff event. Approximately 12,000 people came through the MSC Wildlife Experience during Arizona Children's Learning and Play Festival.

Tour de Scottsdale is scheduled for Saturday, October 6, 2018 and approximately 1,300 riders are expected to participate.

Mr. Owen said that he expects to receive reports from patrol about storm damage in the Preserve over the next few days.

#### **6. OPEN MEETING LAW OVERVIEW AND RECENT CHANGES**

Joe Padilla, Deputy City Attorney, provided an overview of open meeting law and recent legislative changes. He discussed the importance of staying on agenda item topic during meetings and being careful not to have a quorum of email communications. He also reviewed the civil penalties that could be imposed on individual Board Members if they knowingly break the open meeting law.

#### **7. BUDGET UPDATE**

Jeff Nichols, City Treasurer, gave an overview of citywide budget process and future General Fund projections. He highlighted the core objectives of the City Treasurer's Office, fiscal constraints and safeguards, the FY 2018/19 adopted budget, General Fund sources, and Scottsdale property tax, and Valley benchmarking statistics. The Preserve has its own funding source and is not required to compete with other City departments for project funding.

Mr. Ekblaw noted that November's agenda will include an update on capital projects.

#### **8. DOG COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Kelly Hayes, Recreation Leader III, discussed the purpose and goals of the Dog Committee. This consists of City employees and Conservancy representatives and meets two to three times per year. The Committee's primary goal is to address heat related, off-leash, and dog waste related issues.

Canine Safety Day is scheduled for November 17, 2018, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Lost Dog Wash, Gateway, Tom's Thumb, and Brown's Ranch. The media is being encouraged to attend the upcoming Canine Safety Day. Ms. Hayes played an ABC 15 segment on dog safety that was recently aired.

The Pin Flag Campaign will be November 3 through 17, 2018 at Lost Dog Wash and Gateway Trailheads. The campaign will highlight the problem of trail users not picking up after their dogs by placing flags indicating locations where dog feces was found for 1/4 mile on each trail.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Natural Resource Coordinator Yvonne Massman said that many times dog-related injuries and deaths are not reported, but to her knowledge, there were no heat-related incidents this summer. Commissioners admired the new, more impactful, educational signage that has been installed at trailheads. Ms. Massman said that because of the nature of trail use, it would be difficult to collect statistics regarding dogs off leash.

## **9. TOUR DISCUSSION**

Kroy Ekblaw, Preserve Director, offered Commissioners an opportunity to make comments and ask questions regarding the tour taken prior to the meeting.

Chair McKeighan asked that an update be agendized regarding the history of use of Preserve Tax funds for the Pinnacle Peak paving project.

Chair McKeighan inquired whether a more natural material could be used for the firebreak areas. He suggested that a larger test area be done before committing to the entire area. Commissioner Lipps agreed that the materials should mirror the desert area, similar to materials used near Lost Dog and Ringtail. Commissioner LaPat-Polasko suggested that photographs be taken of the material over time to see how it is affected by weather conditions.

Mr. Ekblaw explained that the goal is to create a representative sample that will aesthetically integrate with the desert and prevent grasses and small shrubs from growing along the firebreak area. Staff will work with the contractor on sample areas and Commissioners and the public will have an opportunity to give feedback.

## **10. STAFF REPORTS**

- E-bikes

Mr. Ekblaw said that the City is working on a number of bike-related issues, including those relating to the Preserve. The Commission will be given an opportunity to give input on options relating to the Preserve as the process continues.

- Trails status

Scott Hamilton, Senior Trails Planner, presented the new Fall 2018 north area map, which includes the Phase 3 trails near Pima/Dynamite. Maps have been posted at trailheads and installation of trail signs will be completed by this weekend.

The Phase 3 working group will reconvene in the next few weeks.

- Trailhead Improvements
  - Pima/Dynamite
  - Fraesfield
  - Granite

Mr. Ekblaw said that Fraesfield is closed for improvements and Granite will remain open during construction. He anticipates completion in late spring or early summer.

The Development Review Board will review the Pima/Dynamite project this month. Once approved, construction documents will be completed and bid packages will go out.

Mr. Hamilton presented the Trail Etiquette video that Cable Channel 11 recently completed. The video will be available for viewing on YouTube and will be linked to the Preserve page.

#### **11. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Chair McKeighan reported that he had an opportunity to give City Council a quarterly report on activities of the Preserve Commission and was given an opportunity on September 19th to meet one-on-one with Mayor Lane to discuss details of the report. He plans to provide regular reports to Council in an effort to build a stronger bridge between the MSPC and Council.

#### **12. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

##### **Future Agenda Items:**

- Preserve Tax Update
- Capital Projects Update
- Rock Climbing Overview
- FireWise Preserve Update
- E-Bikes

Commissioners expressed an interest in further discussing Pinnacle Peak parking issues and the suggestions that were made by the public regarding parking at 108th and Ringtail. Commissioner Alpert requested that, if Prop 420 passes in November, the City Attorney's Office be invited to give a presentation explaining the proposition.

#### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m. CHAIR MCKEIGHAN, VICE-CHAIR WENSTROM, COMMISSIONERS ALPERT, DODD, LAPAT- POLASKO, AND LIPPS VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.